

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A device for effecting ~~the, in particular~~ continuous[[,]] treatment[[,]] ~~preferably the cleaning,~~ of a metal strip (2) by means of a treatment liquid, particularly a pickling liquid, comprising:

at least one tank treatment for accommodating a treatment liquid;

a guide for guiding the metal strip ~~being guided, preferably horizontally,~~ through the at least one treatment tank (1) for accommodating ~~the a~~ treatment liquid; [[,]] ~~particularly a pickling tank,~~ with

at least one pump circulation tank (3), ~~preferably two pump circulation tanks,~~ for at least one of preparing or, storing ~~and/or~~ and holding the treatment liquid, the pump circulation tank (3) being arranged directly under the treatment tank (1), ~~characterized in that~~ the at least one pump circulation tank (3) ~~has~~ having a bottom (17), having with a slope over the its entire length, wherein the slope ~~being is~~ aligned in at least one of in the strip running direction ~~and/or~~ and transversely in relation to the strip running direction.

2. (Currently Amended) The device as claimed in claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the treatment tank (1) is configured as a shallow tank.

3. (Currently Amended) The device as claimed in claim 2, further comprising ~~characterized in that the tank (1) is configured with~~ at least one cover on the treatment tank.

4. (Currently Amended) The device as claimed in ~~one of the preceding claims,~~ characterized in that claim 1, wherein the pump circulation tank (3) and the treatment tank (1) form a unit.

5. (Currently Amended) The device as claimed in ~~one of the preceding claims~~, characterized in that claim 1, wherein the treatment tank (1) is structurally mounted on the at least one pump circulation tank (3).

6. (Currently Amended) The device as claimed in ~~one of the preceding claims~~, characterized in that the claim 1, further comprising a contact surface between the treatment tank (1) and the at least one pump circulation tank (3) ~~is provided with~~ and a seal in the contact surface (18).

7. (Currently Amended) The device as claimed in ~~one of the preceding claims~~, characterized in that the claim 1, wherein the treatment tank has a bottom (9) of the tank (1) that forms the a cover for the at least one pump circulation tank (3).

8. (Currently Amended) The device as claimed in ~~one of the preceding claims~~, characterized in that claim 1, wherein the treatment tank (1) and the pump circulation tank (3) are produced from comprised of a plastic, preferably polypropylene.

9. (Currently Amended) The device as claimed in ~~one of the preceding claims~~, characterized in that claim 1, wherein the treatment tank (1) and the at least one pump circulation tank (3) are produced from comprised of rubberized steel.

10. (Currently Amended) The device as claimed in ~~one of the preceding claims~~, characterized in that the tank (1) is connected to the at least one pump circulation tank (3) via claim 1, further comprising run-off chambers (4) ~~and/or via~~ or at least one run-off (6) accommodating a change in length connecting the treatment tank to the at least one pump circulation tank.

11. (Currently Amended) The device as claimed in claim 10, wherein one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the run-off (6) is arranged centrally in the tank (1), ~~seen in the strip running direction.~~

12. (Currently Amended) The device as claimed in ~~one of the preceding claims, characterized in that~~ claim 10, wherein the treatment tank (1) has a bottom (9) sloping down toward the run-off (6).

13. (Currently Amended) The device as claimed in ~~one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the~~ claim 1, further comprising a space in the run-off chamber (4) between the a separating wall (11) in the run-off chamber and the an outside wall (12) of the run-off chamber, a flap closing the space can be closed in a gastight manner and the flap by a flap (10) which can be actuated from the outside the tanks and the chamber.

14. (Currently Amended) The device as claimed in ~~one of the preceding claims, characterized in that, for ventilating and/or venting the pump circulation tank (3);~~ claim 1, further comprising at least one connecting line (14) is arranged between the pump circulation tank (3) and the treatment tank for at least one of ventilating and venting the pump circulation tank (1).

15. (Currently Amended) The device as claimed in ~~one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the~~ claim 1, further comprising pumps for pumping treatment liquid is delivered from the at least one pump circulation tank (3) into the treatment tank (1) by means of pumps.

16. (Currently Amended) A method for modifying a treatment device, ~~preferably for cleaning, of for~~ a metal strip by means of a treatment liquid, particularly a pickling liquid, wherein the metal strip is being guided, preferably horizontally, through at least one treatment tank;

particularly ~~a deep tank~~, for accommodating the treatment liquid, the method comprising:
characterized

~~[[-]] in that removing the treatment tank is removed,~~

~~[[-]] in that installing a shallow treatment tank and a pump circulation tank ~~are installed~~ in place of
the removed treatment tank wherein,~~

~~[[-]] in that a bottom is provided for the pump circulation tank, having has a bottom with a slope
over the entire length of the bottom, wherein the slope being is aligned in at least one of the strip
running direction ~~and/or~~ and transversely in relation to the strip running direction, for causing the
largely complete emptying of the pump circulation tank or the shallow treatment tank.~~

17. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 16, ~~characterized in that a bottom~~
~~is provided for~~ wherein the shallow treatment tank~~[[,]]~~ having has a bottom with a slope over the
entire length, the slope being aligned in the strip running direction.

18. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in ~~either of claims 16 and 17,~~
~~characterized in that~~ claim 15, further comprising arranging the at least one pump circulation tank
~~is arranged~~ directly under the shallow tank.

19. (New) The method as claimed in claim 16, wherein the metal strip is guided horizontally
and the treatment liquid is a pickling liquid.

20. (New) The device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the guide is operable to guide the strip
horizontally through the treatment tank.